

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 01616

IO FOR ASST SECY MAYNES, DALLEY, MILLS
S/IL FOR DALE GOOD
DEPT PASS LABOR FOR SECY MARSHALL, HOWARD SAMUEL, JAMES
QUACKENBUSH
COMMERCE FOR SECY KREPS
FROM CHARGE SORENSON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO
SUBJECT: ILO: INITIAL REACTION OF G-77 TO THE IMEC
PROPOSAL ON RESTRUCTURING

REF: (A) GENEVA 1456, (B) GENEVA 1615

1. THE IMEC LETTER REPORTED REF A, TOGETHER WITH THE IMEC
PROPOSAL REPORTED REF B, WERE CONVEYED WEDNESDAY AFTER-
NOON, FEBRUARY 1, TO AMBASSADOR AZIMI (IRAN) WHO IS
CHAIRMAN OF THE STRUCTURE GROUP. BOTH DOCUMENTS APPEARED
TODAY, FEBRUARY 2, AS ILO DOCUMENT WPS/77-78/8.

2. I UNDERSTAND THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD HOSTED
A LUNCHEON TODAY (FEBRUARY 2) TO DISCUSS THE IMEC PROPOSAL
AND THAT THIS WAS ATTENDED BY IRANIAN AMBASSADOR AZIMI,
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PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR YUNUS, ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR BINTU'A-
TSHIABOLA (WHO IS THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE G-77),
EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR EL-SHAFEI, VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR
CASTELLANOS, PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR ARIAS-SCHREIBER, DANISH
AMBASSADOR KASTOFT (REPRESENTING THE EC-9) AND CANADIAN
CHARGE RICHARD MCKINNON, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF IMEC. LEGAL
ADVISOR FRANCIS WOLF JOINED DG BLANCHARD FROM THE ILO.

3. PRELIMINARY REACTION WAS POSITIVE. AZIMI LED OFF BY SAYING THAT THE IMEC COUNTRIES HAD OBVIOUSLY MADE A GREAT EFFORT, THAT IT WAS A POSITIVE STEP THAT SHOULD BE WELCOMED BY ALL AND THAT IT WOULD BE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO RESPECT THE PRINCIPLE OF TRI-PARTITISM DURING THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS. THE LATINS NODDED AND SAID LITTLE OR NOTHING. THE ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR, REPRESENTING THE G-77, WAS EQUALLY QUIET. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR EL-SHAFEI WAS THE MOST VOCIFEROUS. HE CALLED THE IMEC PROPOSAL A "GOOD START" AND A "SIGNIFICANT STEP". HE SAID THAT IT WAS A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF GOOD WILL ON THE PART OF IMEC AND, THEREFORE, A TURNING POINT. SPEAKING WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, HE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE SAME PRINCIPLE FOR RESTRUCTURING THE GOVERNMENT GROUP SHOULD ALSO BE APPLIED TO THE WORKERS' AND EMPLOYERS' GROUPS. HE WOUND UP BY EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT THE PROPOSAL STILL CONTEMPLATES A FORM OF PERMANENT SEATS.

4. DG BLANCHARD CAME DOWN HARD ON EL-SHAFEI, SAYING THAT IT WAS BEYOND THE COMPETENCE OF A GOVERNMENT WORKING GROUP ON STRUCTURE TO FORMULATE PROPOSALS THAT WOULD VIOLATE THE AUTONOMY OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS. ALL OTHERS PRESENT ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTONOMY WITHOUT COMMENT. FOLLOWING THE MEETING, DANISH AMBASSADOR KASTOFT DREW EL-SHAFEI ASIDE AND ASKED WHETHER HE HAD CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

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THE EXTENT TO WHICH HIS IDEA ON RESTRUCTURING THE NON-GOVERNMENT GROUPS WOULD PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF THE SOVIETS. THIS APPEARED TO BE A NEW THOUGHT TO THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR AND HE SEEMED TO TAKE THE POINT.

5. PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT THING THAT HAPPENED DURING THE MEETING WAS THE TOTAL ABSENCE OF ANY COMMENT ON THE EFFECT THAT THE IMEC PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE ON AFRICAN REPRESENTATION IN THE GOVERNING BODY. IN DISCUSSIONS ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, WITH SOME OF THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES, AMBASSADOR KASTOFT HAD MADE CLEAR THAT ONE OF THE EFFECTS OF THE IMEC PROPOSAL WOULD BE TO REDUCE SUBSTANTIALLY OVERALL AFRICAN REPRESENTATION. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS PRELIMINARY NOTICE, PERHAPS ITS IMPLICATIONS WERE NOT FULLY GRASPED BY THE ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY WERE CERTAINLY UNDERSTOOD BY EL-SHAFEI AND HE LET THE MATTER PASS WITHOUT COMMENT. THIS COULD ALSO MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT THE AFRICANS SIMPLY DO NOT WANT TO DISCLOSE PRELIMINARILY ANY INTERNAL DISSENSION THAT MAY EXIST ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT THIS, GIVEN THAT IT IS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE ASIAN PROPOSAL.

6. THE LATINS, CERTAINLY, ARE ANXIOUS TO DO THEIR SUMS.
THEY HAVE ASKED TO MEET CANADIAN CHARGE MCKINNON IN A
SEPARATE MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN REGION
NEXT WEEK TO TALK ABOUT NUMBERS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE
PROPOSAL FOR THE AMERICAS. (WE ARE TO BE INVITED.)

7. THE G-77 PLAN TO MEET MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 6,
TO DISCUSS THE IMEC PROPOSAL, THEIR RESPONSE AND STRATEGY.
IMEC ALSO PLANS TO MEET MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, AT 9:30 A.M.
AND WE ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. SORENSON

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